

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects (without prejudice) Group II, which corresponds to claims 18-41, and Applicant has canceled claims 1-17 herein.

Of these claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is generic to the various species identified by the Office Action. Moreover, responsive to the election of species requirement in connection with Group II (claims 18-41), Applicant hereby respectively elects P-SiLK in specie OXYGEN-FREE MATERIAL, which corresponds to claims 22-23 and 35-36, copper in specie CONDUCTIVE LINE covered by claims 24 and 37, copper in specie CONDUCTIVE PLUG covered by claims 25 and 38, silicon oxycarbide in specie DIELECTRIC BARRIER covered by claims 26 and 39, silicon oxycarbide in specie FIRST DIELECTRIC LAYER OR OXYGEN-CONTAINING ETCH STOP covered by claims 20-21 and 33-34, without traverse.

Table

Generic claim	Claim 29
Species OXYGEN-FREE MATERIAL	Claims 22-23, 35-36
Species CONDUCTIVE LINE	Claims 24, 37
Species CONDUCTIVE PLUG	Claims 25, 38
Species DIELECTRIC BARRIER	Claims 26, 39
Species FIRST DIELECTRIC LAYER OR OXYGEN-CONTAINING ETCH STOP	Claims 20-21, 33-34

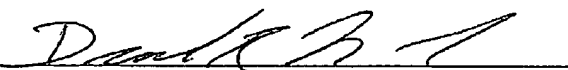
A prompt and favorable action on the merits of this application is now respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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